

# Passport Assistance for Disadvantaged Students Act of 2019

## Section-by-Section Summary

### Section 1: Short Title

This section designates the short title of the bill as the “Passport Assistance for Disadvantaged Students Act of 2019”.

### Section 2: Demonstration Program

**Authorization:** This section requires the Secretary of Education to establish a demonstration program that would allow students enrolled in universities who receive Pell Grants and have been accepted to a study abroad program to receive a United States Passport for no cost. The Secretary of Education would work with the Secretary of State to reimburse these universities who pay the upfront costs associated with the Passports.

**Application:** Grants for this program would be given to schools who submit an application that includes the number of students who would have been eligible for this program each of the previous 5 years. The schools would also make an assurance to the Department of Education that they will continue to report this information even if they are not selected as a demonstration university. Applicants would also be required to submit a plan on how they plan to conduct outreach for this program on campus.

**Awards:** Schools eligible under this demonstration program would include 1 public university, 1 HBCU, and 1 HIS. The Secretary of Education can make additional grants to other applicants if there is any leftover funding, prioritizing schools that provide study abroad programs focusing on STEM education.

**Reporting:** In addition to the reporting requirements mentioned in the application process, The Department of Education and Department of State would annually report to Congress the progress of the program. At the end of the demonstration period, both agencies would make a final report available to Congress including recommendations on the future of Passport assistance for disadvantaged students, and whether the program should be expanded to a larger population of students and students who are enrolled at a non-traditional 4 year university (graduate school, vocational school, etc.).

**Term:** This demonstration program would last a total of 5 years.

**Authorization of Appropriations:** This bill would authorize an account to be funded up to \$500,000 for FY 2021 and the three years thereafter.

*[CBO has stated that this bill would not make any impact on the federal deficit.]*

**Definitions:** This portion defines specific language in the bill such as HSI, HBCU, etc.